

12/16/69

Dear Sir:

In an otherwise accurate article, Newsweek quotes me as having said to a friend that I refused to "play the game of my predecessor" by talking behind the President's back.

This could be construed as a reference to Walt Rostow, my predecessor in this post, which it most emphatically was not.

I have always felt that it was improper for any Presidential assistant to appear as an independent public spokesman, even more to claim credit for what a President does right and to criticize him later for what goes wrong.

Anyone acquainted with Professor Rostow knows that he supported his President loyally both in public and in private.

Best regards,

/s/

Henry A. Kissinger

The Editor  
Newsweek  
444 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

bcc: Mr. Henry Hubbard hand-delivered 12/16/69  
Rewrtn: HAK:ms:16Dec69

December 15, 1969

MEMORANDUM TO HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: William L. Safire

RE: Newsweek Letter

Editor, Newsweek

Sir:

*Std*  
*Std*  
In an otherwise accurate article, Newsweek quotes me as refusing to "play the game of my predecessor" by ~~talking~~ *behind the President's back. the President's policies*

This could be construed as a reference to Walt Rostow, my immediate predecessor in this post, which it most emphatically was not.

*appear as a public spokesman ever more*  
I have always felt that it was improper for any Presidential assistant to claim credit for what a President does right and to criticize him later for what goes wrong. *acquainted with*

Anyone ~~who knows~~ *acquainted with* Professor Rostow knows that he supported his President loyally both in public and in private, ~~while he was in office and afterward, and I thought you would want to set the record straight.~~

METHOD OF MAILING: The original just to "Editor, Newsweek" in New York; copy by messenger no later than Tuesday afternoon to Henry Hubbard at Newsweek, Washington bureau, and he will see to it that it gets printed in the next issue.